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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1920.

Here a star and there a star, some lose their way; here a mist and there a mist, afterward—day!—Emily Dickinson.

The Parliament of Man.

THE assembly of the league of nations meets in Geneva today for the first time, with delegates of eminence from forty-one nations present, and applicants for admission from four other countries prepared to press their claims. Broadly speaking, it is the lower house of the first "parliament of man" ever summoned to pass upon world affairs, and as such is an epoch-making gathering, voluntary exclusion from which may be explainable but not defensible.

The assembly will meet in a city already supreme above all cities in its historical associations with international movements, some bad, but mostly good. It will gather in the capital of a state long ago set apart as an abode of peace, with its territory inviolable; and a nation to which wisdom has been given to settle in pacific ways conflicts of race and class without war and by ultra-democratic political methods. Far wiser has been the choice of Geneva for this seat of international law-making than would have been that of Brussels, in "the cockpit of Europe," and nobler will be its decisions because formed out of the hectic, passionate, militarist atmosphere of Paris, where the treaty of Versailles was intruded into shape.

Much of the labor of the first days of this meeting will be centered in those formalities which will establish the technique of procedure and define the scope of action. But, fortunately, ere the call of the roll begins or the Swiss republic's president formally welcomes the assembly, it will have been settled that the sessions are to be public and the news uncensored.

The main task of the assembly is to ratify or to dissent from the decisions already made by the council of the league, and to initiate for discussion, action and subsequent conference with the council of broad policies on which a majority of the assembly's delegates agree. In addition there will be discussion of plans already proposed and backed by certain nations calling for modifications or changes in the structure of the league; decision as to the admissibility of applicants, and important indications of the legislature's willing to further effective functioning of the proposed international court and such executive agents as the league may need.

As the assembly acts on suggestions for alteration of the structure of the league it will be hampered somewhat by uncertainty as to what the United States really wishes in the way of special favors. The unofficial observer from the United States cannot speak on this point with any authority. Nor can the Department of State. Nor can any emissaries from the incoming administration. But not even this untoward fact need prevent action on such propositions as nations within the league have filed. Nor need the assembly hesitate in making some response to the moves that are coming from South America to test the competency of the league as an arbiter of differences which exist there. This is an issue that sooner or later must be faced, whether the United States enters the league or does not; and the South American republics quite naturally have used their rights as league members to raise it now.

The Matter of Prices.

Concerning the recent announcements of price reductions in a number of commodities, the Nashville Tennessean comments very sensibly that its readers must not be misled or deceived as to the full significance of the reports.

"In many instances price cutting has been the result of forced sales of manufactured articles after original orders had been canceled and the manufacturers were confronted with either selling the articles at a loss or storing them," says the Nashville paper.

"In other instances great reductions in prices have been due to manufacturers and others who have articles that are not standard reducing excessive profits which they have charged upon these articles.

"The public is able to realize, however, that there has also been a reduction in articles constituting the necessities of life this autumn beyond what was expected and almost to the safety point. Reductions to a certain point are profits shared by the public. Reductions beyond this point are losses, which also must be shared by the public.

"At this time there could be no more serious obstacle to business men, to professional men, and to wage-earners alike, than a cessation of buying. A week's cessation of buying would affect this country very much like a plague, would mean innumerable failures and serious business depression, if not panic, and a period of bread lines and soup houses.

"Local retailers are now selling articles which they bought at the peak of high prices. These articles must be sold and the shelves cleared. The retailer must suffer a loss, and for the most part is contenting himself with selling at the manufacturer's price and losing his overhead and general cost.

"If the general public should be able or desirous of a further recession of prices they must in the end bear a portion of the loss which the retailer would immediately suffer, for if the merchants have to sell at ruinous prices these ruinous prices will mean inability to purchase other stocks, which, in turn, must mean that the manufacturers must cease operation and labor become idle. It would soon become a question of not what wages labor could secure, but whether it could secure any work at all.

"In any case, therefore, the part of wisdom for the

general public to aid and promote business "as usual" by making the ordinary purchases it would generally make at this season of the year rather than to wait in the expectation of further reductions which, if they come, must be borne in no small part by the public.

"Now is the time for the seller and the buyer to take council and to learn that there can be no enmity between them. Each must co-operate with the other so that the conditions which have given prosperity to every line in every walk of life will continue.

"Reduction to a certain point means profit-sharing by the public.

"Reduction below the point of cost means loss-sharing by the public."

What the Tennessean says of the retailers in Nashville is true also of Washington merchants. There is indication that the same situation prevails in most American cities.

There is no reason to believe that America will not meet the condition—just as all of the abnormal problems growing out of the war have been met. On the contrary, good times may be looked for with confidence. This is not predicted idly, but is a consensus of sound opinion expressed by many of the most dependable business men in the country, as a study of their recent statements will reveal.

John Calvin's Shade.

When the assembly of the league of nations meets today in Geneva to plan for a "law-governed world" it will hold its sessions in a great hall dedicated to the memory of John Calvin.

There will be a certain sort of fitness in this fact, for Calvin, beyond all other men of his time, made Geneva the center of a theory of government in church and state which was to have a marked influence on the history of constitutional rule throughout the world. Quite apart from any theories of theology which he held and promulgated he has compelled the attention of historians and jurists because of the profound influence he had upon civil administration not only in Geneva but in lands where his political as well as religious influence became dominant, either while he lived or after, as for instance in Holland, Scotland, Great Britain and the English-speaking sections of North America.

He was a definer of law and also a codifier of law. He stressed the theocratic conception of the state as even his most directly descended spiritual and ecclesiastical heirs dare not stress it today. But his fiercest critics never questioned the sincerity of his effort to create higher ethical standards of living for men and for nations. Fundamentally he was not a legalist, but a moralist.

If his shade is now hovering over the city that is inseparably associated with his name it must get considerable satisfaction from the place the community recently has reassumed in the world's eye. There are concentrating for their permanent headquarters associations with many names but a common object—namely, setting up a kingdom of God on earth with passion, envy and strife eliminated. They want a reign of law among and over nations, self-determined after candid debate of all the pros and cons that legitimate nationalism can present.

These associations are of two kinds—voluntary associations of individuals, and, as in the case of the league of nations, representative of governments from all the continents, and including representatives of all racial subdivisions of humanity, many of whom Calvin knew not of. But they, as did he, believe that "righteousness exalteth a nation," and that the ultimate right is the ultimate might. He was not a Machiavelli, as John Morley in one of his great essays has shown. But neither was he a St. Francis.

Beautifying Arlington.

Logic, if no other factor were operative, has made it necessary for the nation to put itself back of a plan to complete and make more beautiful the tract in Arlington where lie the remains of leaders and privates in the wars since 1861. It would have been absurdly inconsistent to utilize the best engineering, artistic and expert advice in making worthy of the dead our cemeteries in France and Great Britain and not do the same here at the nation's heart.

The Fine Arts Commission's approval of the plans of the War Department settles the matter so far as advice goes. Now it is up to Congress to make the changes and expansions possible. Restoration will then proceed so that in the course of time the newer additions to the area will resemble if not equal the superb timber that now covers so much of the site. Changes in the rarely beautiful Custis House will bring it back to its typical state, a symbol of the South in the best days of its pre-war wealth, culture and hospitality.

Inclusion of Arlington and its environs in the general plan for making this urban center one of the most, if not the most beautiful in the world, is wholly commendable. When the coming bridge spanning the Potomac and connecting the parkway near the Lincoln Memorial with the National Cemetery is completed another link in the chain will have been finished. Nature did all she could for the project when she wrought her work, and now man is busy living up to his best vision.

One Mail Zone for the Americas.

The tentative agreement just arrived at by the congress of postal experts sitting in a congress at Madrid makes all the nations of North, Central and South America, save Canada, participants in a unified postal zone, with common rights and duties. Apart from the practical benefits that will come from the details of operation of this compact the event has a certain symbolic significance. The benefits will not be wholly commercial or educational, certain as those are to come, for they always follow all betterment of means of communication between nationals of different countries. The benefits also will be political and social. Nations that co-operate in work of any kind find that it is easier to take on other forms of teamwork. If the Americas are to present the happy spectacle some day of having unity when forces from abroad assail them it will be by a constant building up of such forms of interaction as this agreement registers.

"It will be a long time," opines the Los Angeles Times, "before the full dinner pail with the foam on the top will be the slogan of either party." Well, perhaps. But we understood from a prominent candidate that the same pail was an entirely dead issue.

This bit of satirical advice from the Los Angeles Times: "If it comes down to getting a silk shirt or starting a bank account, don't neglect the shirt; you can start a bank account any time, and the silk shirt is likely to go out of fashion."

SAMUEL PEPPY'S BUNS & PASTRY

Modern Dietist Horrified at Price of Desserts and Feels Foolish.

By G. O. MEINTYRE.

NEW YORK, Nov. 14.—A page from the diary of a modern Samuel Pepys: Up betimes and in my chamber all the morning, frolicking with my dog and refurbishing my great coat and, too, I played some old tunes on the harpsichord. Very sweet. Came two artists to tell me of plans to live in Italy, our dollar, they aver, being worth six there, and with the high prices they see in it was the way to save, which seems too bad.

Through the town and saw G. Rice, the poet, off to hunting. At the library yard a crowd and edging in it was farouso, the public singer, talking and unimpaired of the attention paid him it seemed. Lunched on creamed chipped beef and met Allan Dwan, the cinema director, who was hurrying to entrain for California and I marveled at his unconcern. Had it been my journeying, I would have been there an hour before train time.

At Times Square I met the show beauties Mistress Lorraine, Gerard and King, and they hailed me for a luncheon, but I tried to compromise on heaters of soda, and so being chided for my niggardiness left them. Thence to see H. Doherty, who had been ill, and found him better and a man of great wisdom in his plain ways.

Home in the late afternoon and began to read in the Encyclopedia, having resolved to read all the volumes this winter instead of mystery tales, for which I have a great liking. Fared forth with my wife for dinner and I ordered a dessert that cost \$1 and felt foolish the rest of the evening. And so to bed.

Modern New York hotels have their own libraries. Turkish baths, florist shops and hair-dressing establishments. But the Ritz-Carlton is to go a step farther. It is announced, with the new Ritz to be opened at Atlantic City shortly after the first of the year. Albert Keller, the general manager, is building a theater for the hotel's patrons and the succulent Broadway attractions will be presented there weekly. The new hotel will be one of the finest in the world, located in the Chelsea district on the Boardwalk.

A rich London and New York clubman was found murdered in a room in a cheap hotel in the Tenderloin the other week. He registered at the hotel at 8 o'clock in the morning with a young man obviously of a different social level. The police declare that there is an organized band of gangsters, who picket the cafes and barrooms, looking for wealthy young men who are in no shape to take care of themselves. It is such crimes that awaken New York to the fact that life is not always a night club. Drivers declare that the percentage of intoxicated persons has not decreased—the only change is in the night hours.

A peep into the housing shortage in Manhattan may be gained from the fact that three newspapermen occupy one large room containing one bed, one bath and one toilet. One works on a morning paper, the other is on the lobster shift of an evening paper, and the third works on an afternoon journal. Nearly all the hall bedrooms must have two occupants, and many landladies are renting bathrooms with cots for \$10 a week.

THE HERALD MAIL BAG

The Herald welcomes contributions from its readers on current topics, and will publish the best of general interest. Communications should not exceed 200 words and must bear the name and address of the writer, although they need not be published if it is so desired. Space can not be given to the publication of amateur verse.

SAYS TROPICS STIR SAVAGRY.

To the Editor, The Washington Herald: I believe there is an explanation of the alleged slaughter of native islanders by American marines and the local Europeans who command—in the curious influence of the tropical climate on the white man.

It is a terrible story of reversion to primitive passions. But the white man, suddenly confronted with an inferior civilization and having absolute power in his own hands, almost invariably is brutalized until his own reactions have had time to stabilize him.

When the Spanish conquistadores occupied Mexico and Peru, they showed themselves the victims of this law of barbaric degeneracy. So did the Europeans who colonized other parts of the New World. The Belgian atrocities in the Congo, which stirred civilization into vigorous protest fifteen years ago, were of the same stamp.

When the United States occupied the Philippines, the "water cure" torture was applied to the natives, showing the primitive law in operation. The Europeans could be multiplied indefinitely.

The Haitian revelations show Americans at home that the white man seems the universal victim of this law of atavism. We ourselves are scarcely 3,000 years removed from the savagery that for 800,000 years formed our instincts and guided our habits.

But, the higher civilization demonstrates, nevertheless, that the white man no longer allows such barbarities to continue. The white man, himself, stops them. His indifference to injustice is short-lived. So America will stop such affairs and eventually will provide Haiti with a stabilized democratic government. KERNDON HILL.

Washington, Nov. 10, 1920.

A DAILY LINE O' CHEER

By John Kendrick Bangs.

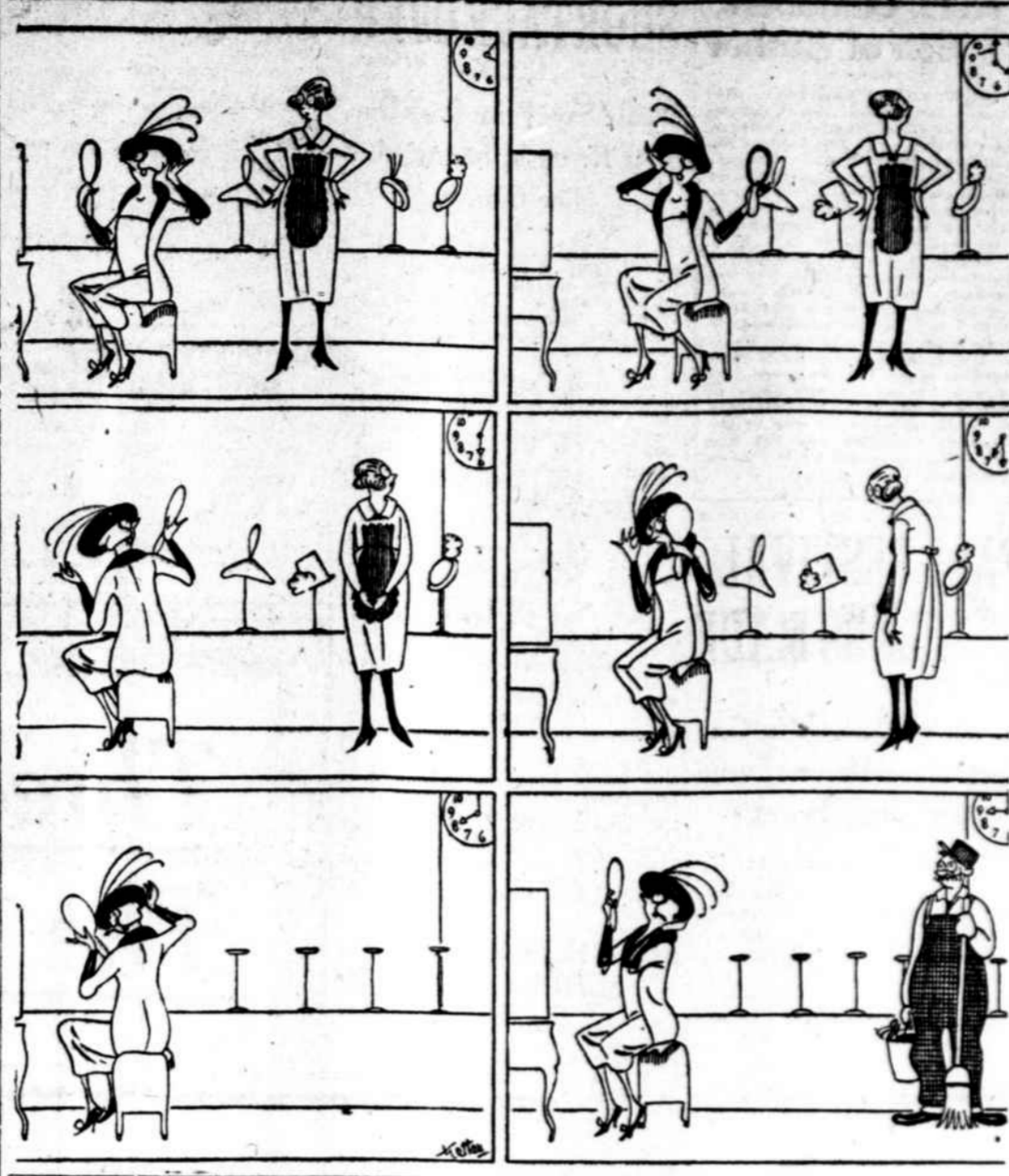
THE NIGHT OF LIFE.
Old age may be the Night of Life—Perchance that view is best. If it be true that days of strife Have merged in hours of rest.

The memories of other days—Perhaps they are the stars Reflecting light of sunny ways On bygone calendars.

And—sweetest thought—the race well run.

The certainty that morn That follows close will show the sun Of glorious youth again.

Can You Beat It!



The Washington Observer

Charles Nagel and Albert D. Lasker, Texas Prospects for Cabinet.

Perhaps it is President-elect Harding's choice of Texas as a vacation retreat, as much as anything else, that lends color to the suggestion that he is going to give Dixieland a Cabinet post. It happens that two former Texans are the objects of the latest Cabinet rumors. One of them is Charles Nagel, of Missouri, Secretary of Commerce and Labor under President Taft. Although there is not the slightest evidence that Mr. Nagel was associated with the alleged delivery of "the German vote" to Harding and Coolidge, the Cabinet report hints that his inclusion in the new Administration would be a triumph for the Texas cause. Mr. Nagel was born in Texas in 1848.

The other former Texan named as a Cabinet possibility is Albert D. Lasker, of Chicago, who lately has been much in the news as the author of the "Lasker plan" for settling the crisis in the baseball world. Lasker is head of the big Lord & Thomas advertising concern, with which he began as a stenographer, and since has become a millionaire. He, too, like Nagel, is talked about in connection with the Secretaryship of Commerce. Lasker had principal charge of G. O. P. advertising during the campaign. Before the convention he was one of Hiram W. Johnson's paladins. With Fred W. Upham, William Wrigley, Jr., and a couple of other Chicago Republicans, Lasker was one of the first to congratulate President-elect Harding, having rushed to Marion from Chicago by special train for the purpose on election day.

One of the most remarkable names brought into prominence by the Republican landslide is that of Emory J. San Souci, governor-elect of Rhode Island. He is the descendant of a French-Canadian family which has sent many of its members into New England. By occupation he is a retail shoe merchant in a suburb of Providence and for the past six years has been lieutenant governor of Rhode Island. The smallest State in the union recorded one phenomenon that is almost unparalleled in the annals of the Republic. It was rolling up huge pluralities for the Republican ticket. State and local tickets, Joseph Gainer, Democrat, swept back into the majority of Providence by a landslide. He attributes his escape from the cyclone which annihilated all other Democrats in Rhode Island to the support of the Republican "Providence Journal."

A trio of Frenchmen, who were schoolboy cronies and university comrades, find themselves in prominent official positions at league of nations headquarters in Geneva. The best-known of the three is Albert Thomas, Clemenceau's minister of munitions and French Socialist leader. Another, who has won fame because of his brilliant service as official interpreter at the Peace Conference, is Prof. Paul Mantoux. The third is Pierre Comert, whom all American correspondents at Paris and Versailles will remember as the capable and indefatigable press representative of the Quai d'Orsay. Thomas heads the league's labor bureau; Mantoux is Quebec's first French Canadian in charge of the press department. They are boon companions!

The Hon. A. K. Maclean, a Canadian politician now visiting in the United States, factually observes that if Canada would nationalize the liquor industry, almost enough thirsty American tourists are week-ending in Quebec to keep the Dominion national debt. Montreal hotels and other resorts in Canada's wet province are busily booking Christmas and New Year's parties of Americans who want to celebrate in pre-Volstead fashion. Mr. Maclean was acting minister of finance in the Canadian war cabinet. He bears a striking resemblance to Franklin K. Lane, for whom he is frequently mistaken when visiting this country.

R. Sperling, chief of the British delegation at the International Communications Conference, which is holding so protracted a session in Washington, is imbibing useful "local color" for his official interpretation as head of the American delegation.

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BRITISH PAPERS LEAD IN AMERICA

Imperial Editors Learning Life of New World at First Hand.

By GEORGE FERRY MORRIS.

Harold Spender, whose biography of Lloyd George recently published is the latest friendly exposition of the Welshman's character, has arrived in the country to share in the celebration of the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth and to travel about the country promoting Anglo-American unity. Year by year, since the war opened, the increase of British journalists visiting this country has had its benign results on British journalism. There are more staffs in British offices today that have editorial writers who know something about America at first hand than there were in 1914. There is something like reciprocity of intercourse now. Formerly our journalists knew of Britain at close range and British editors knew but little about us. To Lord Northcliffe, with all his shortcomings, must be credited some of the better education in the States, where by repeated personal visits and he then began to order his subordinates over here to fit them to write intelligently on American politics, commerce and social changes.

New England's Railway Problem. They are talking about a four cent a mile passenger rate on the New England railroads now. They begin to see the need of some such consolidation of roads as Mr. Morgan and Mr. J. P. Morgan planned and formed, but in ways that brought them into collision with the law. Now New Englanders want a lawful, governmentally approved merger. Important negotiations with the Federal authorities are now on, and the roads' plans for additional loans and the Treasury Department's standards of securities for the proposed loans do not differ. Wherefore Boston is at present harboring some of the ablest corporation lawyers of New England, among them Charles F. Choate, the present representative of the New England States for the Federal Government. Once had Rufus and later Joseph Choate for his chief exemplar in forensic and legal skill.

Coincidence with the appearance of these lawyers have been the monthly visits of Judge George W. Anderson. His definition of the best thing about Boston is not "The 5 o'clock train for New York." His version is "The Federal for Washington." When he gets tired of dispensing law he runs over here to watch politics, get the latest inside news about the administration, the situation, and discuss with the Brandeis. He has the merit of knowing what he thinks and why and of saying it unequivocally. It is as true of his conversation as of his judicial decisions.

Valuable Paper. Prof. Francis W. Kelsey, of the University of Michigan, while in the city for a few days doing what could be done to promote the Constitutional Convention, has been in the city, indicated to those persons who met what some of the facts are as to Turkey in Asia Minor, facts which make the outlook for Armenia, and Turkey, rather bleak. He is at odds when they should be working as harmoniously as when Foch led their united forces. But he can only be quoted in his own words. He is a bright prospect facing investigators like himself who are profoundly eager to get at the hidden art treasures and the buried cities and communities of Asia Minor, and all other lands from which the Turks have been driven, in some cases only temporarily and in others permanently, as he believes. Whether under the Italian, French, or British rule the territory is now to be open to the archaeologists of the world, and the thrilling discoveries are expected, valuable to students of the phases of humanity's evolution. For instance Prof. Kelsey had with him a paper so fragile and yet so valuable that he dared not entrust them to any messenger, and so left his work of investigation temporarily in order to deposit these treasures at Ann Arbor.

They will illumine, when deciphered, not only religious, social customs, commerce, standards and literature of the people who made them but also the most minute details of the lives of the writers. Kelsey reports that during the "great" wars, Turkey ruthlessly executed a decree that has practically put out of existence all written and printed Armenian literature. Priceless manuscripts, that were hidden in churches, monasteries, and in the work of immigration, perished in order to deposit these treasures at Ann Arbor.

The effort which eminent Japanese, headed by Baron Shibusawa, are making to discover just why it is that American public opinion now is so adverse to Japan, is taking on concrete form. Japanese of emigration are beginning to arrive in this country to collect evidence and among them is Mr. Harada, formerly president of the Doshisha College. He is now in the East getting in touch with the Japanese press, journalists, and official and national organizations formed to promote goodwill among the nations.

CANADA TO WELCOME U. S. PULP INTERESTS

"Any companies, whether British, Canadian or American, which have a proposition to develop pulp and paper enterprises in New Brunswick, will receive every encouragement from the provincial government," says Premier Foster of New Brunswick.

"Our general policy toward pulp and paper enterprises is embodied in the statutes of the province and in the granting of licenses to cut on the Crown lands for the purpose of manufacturing pulp and paper under what are very reasonable terms. These licenses are renewable for a period of thirty years and may be renewed for another twenty years."

WESTERN PLANT "EATS" MOSQUITOES

A plant which eats mosquitoes—bushy in everything—has been discovered in the western part of Washington State by Professor Trevor Kincaid, of the biological staff at the University of Washington. The plant is commonly known as the "mosquito plant," and is a small, bushy plant, with pink, pale leaves of this plant are sticky, and they snare the pestiferous insect just as a flypaper catches flies. Then they gobble up the mosquito.

\$3,000,000 FOR COLLEGE FUND

President and Many Notables of University of Virginia Group.

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va., Nov. 14.—The President of the United States, one governor, four bishops, two U. S. Senators and four judges are included in the national committee of fifty made public today by the centennial endowment fund of the University of Virginia.

This committee, which includes men of prominence in every walk in life throughout the nation, will act in an advisory capacity to fund officials in the collection of the \$3,000,000 birthday gift to be presented to the university upon her 100th birthday next June. Its personnel in part follows:

President Woodrow Wilson, Gov. Westmoreland Davis, of Virginia; Maj. Gen. Cronkite, Episcopal bishop coadjutor of Virginia; John H. Finley, commissioner of education of New York State; Fairfax Harrison, president, Southern Railway System; Hon. Franklin K. Lane, former Secretary of the Interior; Right Rev. D. J. O'Connell, Catholic bishop of Richmond; Thomas Nelson, Episcopal bishop of North Carolina; Rev. A. T. Robertson, Episcopal bishop of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; Thomas F. Ryan, financier of New York and Virginia; Right Rev. Frederick C. Hodges, Episcopal bishop of Georgia; Judge Erskine M. Ross, of the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals, California; Senator Claude Swanson, of Virginia; Rev. Ernest M. Stires, of New York; Rev. J. R. Stettin, pastor of St. John's Church, New York; Hon. John Skelton Williams, Comptroller of the Currency; Senator John Sharp Williams, of Mississippi; Right Rev. Collins Denny, Episcopal bishop of Richmond; Thomas W. Gregory, Justice U. S. Supreme Court; Representative J. Montague Robert W. Bingham, of Ohio; John B. Cobb, Prof. Archibald C. Coolidge, Robert W. De Forest, William C. Eustis, Hon. R. Tate Irvine, Hon. Charles F. Hennrich, Armistead C. Gordon, William J. Jones, Judge Jos. L. Kelly, Charles C. McMillen, Representative R. Walton Moore, Samuel Porch, Fergus Ried, Sam McKee, Alfred P. Thom and Dr. William H. Wither.

BUSINESS MEN URGE TAX PAYMENT DELAY

Hundreds of business men are appealing to William M. Williams, Commissioner of Internal Revenue, for extension of time on payment of the fourth installment of income and excess profits taxes, due December 15. It was learned officially yesterday.

Answer is being made to all inquiries that Treasury officials have no authority to grant such requests and that relief can be obtained only through a special act of Congress before the limit of time is reached. It is indicated that Congress will be asked to extend the time.

Simulated business and falling prices are given as reasons why many business men cannot meet their full obligations without facing bankruptcy. From the inquiry it appears that the silk and textile industries are the hardest hit. All sections of the industrial field appear to have made representations.

Treasury officials point out that any considerable reduction in income from taxes at the present time would place the government in an embarrassing position. Treasury certificates of indebtedness amounting to \$691,026,000 bearing 3-1/4 per cent interest were issued in anticipation of the final installment and are due December 15.

CALGARY LAKE HAS HIGH SALT CONTENT

One hundred and eighty miles northeast of Calgary, Alberta, is a lake that contains 55 to 55 per cent of salt, as compared with 10.7 per cent in Salt Lake, Utah. A solar plant has been established to secure the salt and an evaporator plant is being erected. The present output of the lake, which is 150 acres in area, is ten tons a day.

PIONEER NEWSPAPER OBSERVES BIRTHDAY

This month the Saskatchewan Herald, the first newspaper in the province, celebrates its forty-second birthday. After a journey of 68 miles of desolate prairie and unbridled streams, the late P. G. Laurie, following the brigade of Red River carts which carried his plant, reached Battleford, the capital of the Northwest Territories.